

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, and 15 have been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled. Since the subject matter of former claim 2 has been substantially incorporated into claims 1 and 15, and the subject matter of original claim 1 has been incorporated into original claim 3, no new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested. Therefore, claims 1 and 3-15 are pending and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that the Examiner has determined that claims 2, 3 and 6-14 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant further notes that what is understood to be the allowable subject matter of former claim 2 has been incorporated into claims 1 and 15. Therefore, claims 1 and 15 as well as claims 4-12, which depend from claim 1, are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. In addition, claim 3 has been rewritten to include all of the features of original claims 1 and 3. Therefore, claim 3 as well as claims 13 and 14, which depend from claim 3, are also believed to be in condition for formal allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 5, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Chang (US Patent No. 4,591,698) and claims 1 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by JP 6-249445 or Smith (US Patent No. 4,554,864). However, in view of the above discussion, it is believed that the rejections are moot.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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